

THE WAR.

Naval Battle on the Danube
Below Silistria.

RUSSIAN TORPEDO BOATS.

They Ascend the River and Attack a
Turkish Monitor and Camp.

A CRIPPLED IRON-CLAD.

Details of a Hotly Contested Combat Between
the Boats and Monitors.

RUSSIA SWEEPING SOUTHWARD.

Defeat of Suleiman Pacha and His
Retreat Upon Adrianople.

ABANDONMENT OF PHILIPPOPOLIS.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

LONDON, July 28, 1877.

The *HERALD* correspondent at Tchernavoda telegraphs under date of Tuesday, July 24, giving the following account of the naval engagement which took place on the Danube below Silistria on last Saturday, July 21.

SCENE OF THE ENGAGEMENT.

"I hasten to send you particulars of one of the most daring and brilliant feats that have been accomplished since the commencement of the present war. A naval battle has taken place on the Danube, at about fifteen kilometers (about nine miles) down the river from Silistria, in which the Russian officers and sailors engaged have won great glory.

HOW THE ACTION WAS BROUGHT ABOUT.

"The account of the affair which I send you I have received from the Russian officers who took part in it, and corresponds with the official report forwarded to the imperial headquarters. It seems that the strength of the Turkish position at Silistria was not known with sufficient accuracy to warrant a serious movement against the fortress, and it was particularly desirable to find out how far the gunboats at Silistria were able to support the land defenses in case of attack by the Russian army. A boat expedition was therefore secretly planned to explore the river toward Silistria and discover the character of the defenses, both along the eastern side of the town and on the water front.

THE RECONNOITERING EXPEDITION.

"The expeditionary force consisted of three boats, armed with light pieces and torpedoes. The largest of these little vessels was the *Fulgur*, an iron-plated gunboat, not over sixty feet in length, and carrying one brass one-pounder gun on her bow and four under the steel shield covering her stern. She was under the command of Lieutenant Dubashoff, who had already distinguished himself by destroying the Turkish monitor with torpedoes near Matchin. The other two boats were the torpedo boat *Czarovitch*, carrying one four-pounder at the bow and commanded by Lieutenant Schestakoff, and the torpedo boat *Plitichkin*, armed only with torpedoes, commanded by Midshipman Bal.

A MOSQUITO FLEET.

"The last two named boats were only small steam launches, fitted with torpedo spars, and in appearance were utterly inadequate to the dangerous service on which they were despatched. But then their officers and crews were picked men, on whose skill and courage the fullest reliance could be placed. All three boats carried six torpedoes each, and a single shot from the enemy hitting any of them might have easily exploded these and destroyed the boat and her crew.

IN SEARCH OF THE ENEMY.

"In the gray of the morning of Saturday, or about four o'clock, the little expedition started on its perilous trip. Taking advantage of the fog that overhung the river at that hour the boats steamed cautiously up the river, keeping close to the left or Roumanian shore, and passing, when possible, behind the small, low islands that dot that side of the Danube. It was known that the Turks kept rather a sharp lookout for Russian scouts and that the least suspicious sound on the river would be certain to attract their attention. Under the circumstances strict silence was maintained on the boats, and nothing could be heard on board but the dull throbbing of the little engines and the light wash of the water around the propellers.

SLOW AND SURE.

"As the morning advanced the strong rays of the sun began to dispel the fog and occasional glimpses of the Bulgarian bank could be had at times. Sometimes a rift in the vapory veil disclosed the bold outline of the right bank and the distant tree-clad hills receding in wave-like lines to the southward. But the mist still hung over the swampy lands on the left bank and completely masked the slow but sure advance of the Russian torpedo boats.

SIGHTING A TURKISH VILLAGE.

"It was fully eleven o'clock in the fore-

noon when Lieutenant Dubashoff's lookout on the *Fulgur*, which boat led the way, reported that a village was in sight. It proved to be the small Turco-Bulgarian village of Boundvack, situated close to the bank of the Danube, near an island. The appearance of the village did not indicate that the expedition had been observed, although the fog had now been completely dissipated. People could be seen walking about as unconcerned as if a hostile force was not within a hundred miles of them. Children played around the doorways and a woman was observed to be driving some goats apparently toward their feeding ground behind a small group of houses at the eastern end of the village.

THE ENEMY'S CAMPS.

"Steaming further up the river the expedition discovered on the hill just above the village a large camp of Turkish cavalry outposts. The number of men occupying this position could not have been less than two hundred. To the surprise of the Russian officers they discovered on the hills beyond the village another camp of not less than three thousand troops, chiefly infantry. Here, then, was one of the first fruits of the expedition, which was one of reconnaissance.

AN UNFRIENDLY SALUTE.

"Lieutenant Dubashoff laughed when he told me of the way in which his little fleet astonished the Turks. 'You know,' said he, 'that common courtesy forbade that we should pass an important military post without saluting it.' As soon as the torpedo boats were near enough to the Bulgarian shore their guns were turned on the camp, and a shell was sent whistling over the heads of the astonished Turks. It exploded right over the centre of the encampment, and, judging from the scattering that took place in the immediate vicinity, must have torn a good deal of canvas.

'VAMOS!'

"At the second shot the Turkish cavalry fled as if the arch enemy himself was after them, for in the twinkling of an eye the camp was tenanted. Another shot and a cloud of dust thrown into the air showed that it had struck the ground near the top of the slope down which the frightened Turks had disappeared. The fourth shell set the tents and shelters on fire, and these blazed up fiercely as the wind spread the flames.

AN UNEXPECTED RECONTOUR.

"The Russian boats then advanced up the river and rounded the point of the island in front of the village. The object was to get within range of the large camp on the hills beyond and treat it to a similar salute to that which caused the hasty flight of the cavalry. But here the expedition came suddenly upon a Turkish gunboat, which was lying under the island bank with her two smokestacks hidden by the trees.

AN UGLY CUSTOMER.

"The enemy's vessel was casemated and carried four cannon of sixteen centimetres (about six and a quarter inches) bore. Her stern was down stream, owing to the river current, but she had steam up and was evidently prepared to move at the shortest notice. From her position her crew could not determine the actual cause of the confusion and firing going on below the island, but as soon as the Russian torpedo boats turned the point the Turks on the gunboat saw them and prepared for action.

THE BATTLE.

"I repeat the exact words of Lieutenant Dubashoff in describing what followed:—'She immediately opened fire on us, which we heartily returned and with immediate effect, because we had the larger target. The shot and shell from the Turkish vessel fell very wide of our boats, her guns being generally aimed too high. Our men conceived at the beginning of the action a thorough contempt for the enemy's marksmanship and did not throw away a shot in reply, but coolly and deliberately aimed and fired as if at practice.

CONFUSION ON THE HILL TOPS.

"There was now immense confusion in the camp on the hill tops behind the village. The light troops moved rapidly from place to place, and it became very apparent that the Turks on shore were preparing to make an attack upon us with artillery. But we were quite free from uneasiness on that account, because we were confident that the enemy could not hit either of our little boats at long range.

THE WHALE AND THE SWORDFISH.

"We still kept peppering away at the monitor, and had the satisfaction of seeing one of our shells explode on her deck and set it on fire. But this was soon extinguished by her crew, who, however, displayed extreme reluctance to expose themselves to our fire. Indeed, we could see the officers forcing the men from the shelter of the casemate with considerable violence.

AN EFFECTIVE FIRE.

"Another fortunate shot carried away her boat and wrecked her bulwarks. Still another smashed her helm, rendering her helpless in a great degree. All this while she kept up a continuous fire, which, however, did us no harm beyond occasionally sending a great splash of muddy water into our faces and wetting us pretty thoroughly.

THE TURKS HELPLESS.

"Many times the monitor started toward us, but at each advance a well directed shot

would hit her and she would turn about again or back off and resume her promenade up and down below the shore below the camp. Her movements were evidently intended to save her against our torpedoes in case we closed in upon her, but in reality they could not have protected her in any way.

COMING TO CLOSE QUARTERS.

"Finding that the gunners on the monitor could not shoot well we approached her within two kilometers range, and one of our shells set her deck again on fire. This second time it blazed up strongly and many of the crew were seen to jump overboard and swim ashore. We were slowly approaching her, firing steadily and with remarkable effect, and felt confident of destroying her by torpedoes, when a second enemy came up and changed the odds of battle."

ANOTHER TURKISH MONITOR.

"Lieutenant Dubashoff then related how the second Turkish monitor came to the rescue of her disabled consort. She carried two large guns in a single turret and also four on her deck. She approached under full steam and began firing as soon as she came within range. The little torpedo boats, of course, could not venture to attack this powerfully armed vessel, and finding this fire growing hotter began to retire.

ARTILLERY FROM THE CAMP.

"On the approach of the monitor a battery of seven guns came galloping down to the river side from the camp, and, bringing the pieces to bear on the torpedo boats, opened fire. The battery was supported by a company of infantry, which, however, could not harass the Russians, who were out of range of the shore.

FIGHTING THROUGH RETREATING.

"At half-past one o'clock the Russians commenced to retreat down the river, but kept up a brisk fire with their stern guns on the enemy. Several shells were thrown into the camp and against the iron-clad sides of the monitor, and so effective was this fire that the Turks made no attempt at pursuit, being evidently satisfied at their own escape.

RESULT OF THE ACTION.

"The Russian officers counted twelve shells that struck the Turkish vessel, and for their own part they had only a few splintered planks to prove that they had been in action. None of the crews of the torpedo boats were even wounded by the Turkish fire, but there is good reason for believing that the loss on the monitor and in the camp was by no means slight.

THE RUSSIAN OFFICERS.

"The three officers who commanded the torpedo boats in this expedition are already famous from their exploit in blowing up the Turkish monitor in the Matchin Channel. They are inseparable, and again share the glory of this latest exploit. Lieutenant Dubashoff is a blonde of the English type, with a delicate complexion and a slight, lithe figure. He is evidently by birth a gentleman, and has travelled much and is familiar with all the European capitals.

DUBASHOFF'S COMRADES.

"Lieutenant Schestakoff has a short and sailor-like figure, and a countenance of the Saxon type, with a healthy complexion and a hearty voice. He is possessed of an inexhaustible fund of humor and good fellowship, and as mild a pair of gray eyes as were ever set in a Saxon face. The midshipman is a Roumanian in both face and figure. Not one of the three heroes is more than thirty years of age.

CONGRATULATED BY ALEXIS.

"While the officers of the torpedo boat expedition were relating their adventures a despatch came from the Grand Duke Alexis, now in command of the naval operations on the Danube, congratulating the officers and crews on their brave conduct. The crews of the boats were at once paraded in line on shore and the Grand Duke's despatch read to them by Lieutenant Dubashoff. The sailors responded by loud cheers for the Czar, the Grand Duke and their own gallant commander and his brother officers."

SULEIMAN AGAIN DEFEATED.

Suleiman Pacha has been defeated at Karabunar, with heavy loss. Ten guns were taken from him. His army is retreating precipitately on Adrianople. Karabunar is located on the Jamboli branch of the Philippopolis Railway, eighteen miles north of the junction and thirty-two miles south of Jeni Saghra.

ABANDONING PHILIPPOPOLIS.

An Adrianople telegram says four Turkish battalions at present occupy Philippopolis, but they are about to leave, having been ordered elsewhere.

A LIVELY CAMPAIGN.

Telegrams from Adrianople say that 12,000 Russians are at Osman Bazar. The Russians also occupy Kasan, at the foot of the northern slope of the Balkan Mountains.

GOOD WOOD AND BAD IRON.

The St. Petersburg *Official Messenger* publishes following despatch:—"An old merchant ship, the *Vesta*, had an engagement of Kustenje, lasting over five hours, with a Turkish monitor, which did much damage by Russian shells, one of which

burst in her turret. The *Vesta* had her rudder injured and went to Sebastopol for repairs. Two officers and nine sailors were killed, and six officers, among them the commander, and seventeen sailors were wounded. One officer has since died."

SILISTRIA INVESTED.

The Second Russian Army Corps has invested Silistria.

CUTTING THE RAILWAYS.

The Russians have destroyed six railway bridges between Jamboli and Philippopolis. The rolling stock has been sent to Constantinople.

NO SAFETY ANYWHERE.

The foreign Consuls at Adrianople have delivered a note to the Governor, requesting him to take measures to guarantee public safety. The Italian Consul has advised his compatriots to leave.

WHERE AWAY?

The British fleet has left Besika Bay. Its destination is unknown, but it is believed it has only gone for a cruise.

ITALY TAKES WATER.

The Rome *Liberta* and *Panorama*, newspapers, positively deny that the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs (Melegari) ever declared that the British occupation of Gallipoli would be inconsistent with Italian interests.

RECALL OF MIDHAT.

The Vienna *Neue Presse* says:—"Midhat Pacha has been summoned to Constantinople by the Sultan, and he has left Ploimberie to proceed thither by way of Vienna." A despatch to Paris from Ploimberie confirms the reported departure of Midhat Pacha for Constantinople.

A DEAD OFFICER.

A despatch from Shumla states that Aziz Pacha, one of the best Turkish officers, has been killed in a skirmish.

HIS CONDITIONS.

The *Standard's* Berlin despatch says a semi-official Austrian correspondent, who is inspired by the Austrian Foreign Office, announces that Anri Pacha, an Austrian officer, entered into an agreement authorizing England to occupy Gallipoli with marines and artillery and to construct fortifications.

CHAGRIN FOR TURKISH OFFICIALS.

A telegram from Constantinople states that the Sheik-ul-Islam has been dismissed. The fall of Edhem Pacha, Grand Vizier, is believed to be imminent.

PEACE TALK, BUT NO PEACE.

An imperial decree just issued at Constantinople appoints a court martial to try Resid and Abdul Kerim Pachas for crime.

PEACE TALK, BUT NO PEACE.

Peace rumors still circulate in Vienna. Everybody is convinced of the resolute maintenance of the understanding between the three great Powers. It is felt that the moment for action is approaching. The barbarities committed by the Mohammedans at all points, as well as by the Russians and Roumanians, no longer allow an unconcerned view of the position of the unfortunate Christian populations. Austria-Hungary, in particular, is strongly interested. The schemes attributed to England of occupying first, Gallipoli, and next, perhaps, Constantinople, do not preclude the belief in an early peace.

PLENTY OF NOISE.

Great military activity prevails at Constantinople. Volunteers are everywhere enrolling. Recruiting booths have been established in various quarters of the city. Parties of volunteers, with bands and flags, are parading the streets.

AFRAID OF BUTCHERY.

The Greek Consul at Burgas and the French and Italian consuls at Gallipoli have telegraphed their respective embassies at Constantinople for permission to leave the city, owing to the excited state of the Moslem population.

AT NISICHS.

A Cettigne despatch says the Montenegrins have blown up the outworks of Nisichs, which they recently captured. They are now bombarding the fortress from all sides.

DOMINION NEWS.

SURVIVORS FROM THE SEA.

James Ryan and William English, of the American schooner *Flores Temple*, heretofore supposed lost in a dory, during a fog on the 15th inst., arrived to-day, having reached Cape Sable in an exhausted state.

FISHERMEN DROWNED.

Two fishermen, named Mosher and Spender, were drowned to-day off Dover.

THE ST. JOHN FIRE.

A preliminary investigation into the cause of the great fire was opened to-day.

THE UNITED STATES MAILS IN CANADA.

The United States mails which have been passing through Canada the past few days, on account of the big strike, have resumed their usual route.

A BANK AFFECTED BY A CHICAGO FAILURE.

Bank of Montreal stock touched 155½ to-day. The decline is said to be owing to the failure of Meeker's Iron firm at Chicago, in which the Chicago branch of the bank was interested. It is expected the bank is secured.

CRICKET.

The Oswego cricketers defeated the Belleville Club here to-day by sixteen runs.

DOMINION CROPS.

There was a heavy rain storm in the country north of here to-day, and the barley and rye crops were greatly injured.

THE BIRE RECORD.

BARN BURNED IN WESTCHESTER. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.] KATONAH, Westchester county, N. Y., July 27, 1877. F. W. Miller's large barn, with contents, near here, was burned this afternoon. It was partly insured. His large dwelling was burned last week. It is supposed that the fire was the work of incendiaries. This is the fourth building owned by Miller destroyed by fire within two years.

OIL WORKS DESTROYED AT TITUSVILLE.

The extensive oil works of the Standard Oil Works of this place were entirely destroyed by fire at two o'clock this morning. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

AN INCENDIARY FIRE.

An incendiary fire this morning burned James C. Tenney's clothing store and J. R. Gray's drug store in Page's block. The loss is \$8,000, insured.

FIRE AT A SUMMER RESORT.

The gas house of the Surf Hotel, at Fire Island, was destroyed by fire this afternoon. There was a full cistern of water and hand engines on the premises, with which the fire was prevented from spreading. There was very little excitement among the guests of the hotel.

A RAILROAD DEPOT DESTROYED.

The depot and water tank of the New York and Midland Railroad, at Morristown, N. J., were destroyed by fire early this morning. The fire was started in a pile of lumber by the incendiary, who stole a horse to ride away, but being fired at and attacked by a dog he left the horse go and escaped. Plunder was his object.

ACCIDENT OR MURDER?

At about ten o'clock last night William Maloney fell from a third story window of Roach's Building, corner of Vicksburg and Second streets, South Boston, striking on his head, from the effects of which he died shortly after. Persons standing near noticed a man's head protrude from the window shortly after and quickly disappear, and suspicions of foul play were at once aroused. The house was occupied as a tenement, and Maloney had been in the habit of stealing in and out of the window. A lodger in the house named Finnegan quarrelled with Maloney shortly before the accident and ordered him off. Search made failed to find Finnegan and he is suspected of having thrown Maloney from the window. An investigation will be had at once.

BRAINED BY A BRIDGE.

John Heck, of Auburn, a conductor, while crossing a box car was struck by a bridge and killed last night, near Bunker Hill station, on the Lobanow and Fremont Railroad.

MURDER IN NEW JERSEY.

Ego Harmon, July 27, 1877. A man named Kuerner, of that place, shot and killed John Wolf early this morning. Kuerner was quarrelling with his wife, and when Wolf interfered Kuerner seized a gun and shot him in the breast, killing him almost instantly. Kuerner is in custody.

WASHINGTON.

GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, July 27, 1877.

FEDERAL FINANCES.

The Treasury Department to-day issued the fifty-third call for the redemption of five-twenty bonds of 1863. The call is for \$10,000,000, consists of 1865, of which \$3,000,000 are registered and \$7,000,000 are coupon bonds. The principal and interest will be paid at the Treasury on and after the 27th day of October next, and the interest will come on that day. The following are descriptions of bonds:—Coupon bonds dated July 1, 1863—\$50, No. 30,001 to No. 40,000, both inclusive; \$100, No. 52,001 to No. 60,000, both inclusive; \$500, No. 42,001 to No. 50,000, both inclusive; \$1,000, No. 75,001 to No. 80,000, both inclusive. Registered bonds, "redeemable at the pleasure of the United States after the 1st day of July, 1870"—\$50, No. 1,157 to No. 1,400, both inclusive; \$100, No. 10,801 to No. 11,900, both inclusive; \$500, No. 7,201 to No. 7,750, both inclusive; \$1,000, No. 23,001 to No. 24,100, both inclusive; \$5,000, No. 6,701 to No. 7,300, both inclusive; \$10,000, No. 7,881 to No. 11,740, both inclusive.

The following balances were in the United States Treasury to-day at the closing hour:—Currency, \$8,370,959; special fund for the redemption of national currency, \$7,983,213; special deposit of legal tenders for the redemption of certificates of deposit, \$30,760,000; coin, including \$39,079,200 in coin certificates, \$109,392,254; outstanding legal tenders, \$359,764,332.

The receipts from internal revenue to-day were \$209,976 26, and from customs \$513,003 27.

A MILITARY CONFERENCE. Brevet Major General John Pope, commanding the Department of the Missouri, is the senior officer in the military division of the Missouri, and during the absence of Lieutenant General Sheridan, who commands the division, he will consult with Adjutant General Drum and General Sheridan's staff as to plans and movements of troops, &c. General Pope has been ordered to proceed to Chicago, and he will leave Fort Leavenworth immediately for that city, where he will meet General Drum, General Sheridan's headquarters being there. As heretofore stated, General Sheridan has been notified to return from the Far West, and he will be in Chicago next week.

PERSONAL. Assistant Adjutant General Samuel Brock, now on leave of absence, has been ordered to report here for temporary duty in the War Department.

ALGERIAN PASSPORTS. Information has been received at the Department of State from the Minister of the United States at Paris, to the effect that passports will not heretofore be required in Algeria from citizens of the United States travelling in that country. This exemption has been made in consequence of certain annoyances to which two Americans were subjected at Bone, Africa, because they were not provided with passports.

WOMEN'S TEMPERANCE MEETING.

OCEAN GROVE, N. Y., July 27, 1877.

This was the thirty-day of the Women's National Temperance Union Convention. The session was opened this morning by prayers and Scriptural reading in the Tabernacle by Mrs. Stephens, of Delaware. The young people's meeting, in Dr. Ward's tent, was led by Mrs. Mary C. Johnson, of Brooklyn. A meeting for the instruction of children in the temperance lessons of the Bible was held early in the afternoon, and addressed by Mrs. Stone, of Connecticut. Mrs. Allen Butler, of Albany, made some brief remarks, telling how the little ones in this city aided the cause.

At the business session in the Pavilion Mrs. Annie Whittemeyer presided. After the vast audience had sung "Nearer, My God, to Thee," Mrs. Gilford, of Massachusetts, read from the fifth and twenty-fifth chapters of Isaiah.

Mrs. Allen Butler reported that the work of Gospel temperance is moving rapidly forward in Albany, N. Y., and many of the churches have manifested a deep interest in the movement. The Young Men's Temperance Union has a membership of 300, and all through the State the women have taken up the responsibility of saving the young sons and daughters from them. Mrs. Stone, President of the Temperance Union in Connecticut, reported that since January, of 1876, a young People's Union of 400 members has been organized there, and a Children's Band of Hope, eighty-seven strong, are carrying temperance into the hearts of the young.

At eight o'clock this evening, while the rain was falling furiously, the ladies of the Young Men's Temperance Union, who were assembled in the Pavilion, Mrs. Whittemeyer presided. Mrs. Mary C. Johnson invoked the Divine blessing, asking that God's blessing might rest upon those present while they gathered about the table of the Lord; that he would watch over the souls of those who had signed the pledge.

Mrs. Mary C. Johnson read the constitution of the Young Men's Temperance Union, and the Rev. Dr. Stokes said:—"I have seldom seen a company together for ten days during which there was not something dignified and done. I have attended every meeting of this convention and have not heard one word that I would not approve."

The following was adopted:—Resolved, that the grateful thanks of this meeting are hereby extended to the people of Ocean Grove for their kind and cordial welcome, and for the special attention of the hotels and cottages in which we have been entertained as guests.

A large number of the clergy took places on the platform. Dr. Stokes then announced that the sacrament of the Lord's Supper would be administered with unbroken bread. In the evening the ladies of the Young Men's Temperance Union, who were assembled in the Pavilion, Mrs. Whittemeyer presided. Mrs. Mary C. Johnson invoked the Divine blessing, asking that God's blessing might rest upon those present while they gathered about the table of the Lord; that he would watch over the souls of those who had signed the pledge.

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